



Department of Justice

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WOMEN SENTENCED FOR ROLES IN COUNTERFEITING RING

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United States Attorney Deborah R. Gilg announced that Lanesha Paxton, 19, of Stockton, California, was sentenced on May 23, 2011, to three years of probation by Senior United States District Judge Warren K. Urbom, for passing counterfeit Visa travelers checks. Also on this date, a co-defendant, Arena Adanandus, 22, of Oakland, California, was given a sentence of time served. Judge Urbom also ordered that Ms. Paxton and Ms. Adanandus pay \$1,200.00 restitution, to be paid jointly and severally. Adanandus has been in continuous federal custody since her arrest in August, 2010. In addition to the prison term served, Adanandus was ordered to complete three years of supervised release. Both defendants were ordered to pay a special assesement of \$100.00.

In August, 2010, Paxton and Adanandus, together with three other women and one child, traveled from Oakland, California, to Nebraska with the intention of passing counterfeit travelers checks at various stores. Paxton, Adanandus, and the other co-defendants would purchase small items of merchandise at retail locations in Kearney, Nebraska, and use the counterfeit \$100 Visa travelers checks for payment, thereby obtaining a large amount of cash in return. At least 13 counterfeit travelers checks were passed in Kearney, Nebraska. When the van the women were traveling in was stopped in Hall County, Nebraska, an additional 329 counterfeit \$100 travelers checks were seized.

This case was investigated by the United States Secret Service.

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